



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

## HB 5016

### An Act Implementing the Governor's Recommendations Concerning General Government

Testimony of Donald DeFronzo  
Commissioner of Administrative Services  
Acting Commissioner of Construction Services

Appropriations Committee  
March 8, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill 5016, and in particular, on the provisions of this bill that implement Governor Malloy's proposal to merge the Department of Construction Services (DCS) with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). DAS fully supports this proposal and believes that the merger of these two agencies make sense and will enable us to achieve even greater efficiencies in the work that we do.

Not only are DAS and DCS co-located at the State Office Building, the missions and functions of the two agencies are complementary and require frequent and close interaction.

As you know, since July 2011, DAS has been responsible for State-wide building security, State property management, and other functions relating to State real property, such as leasing, property acquisition, and surplus property disposition. In particular, the Facilities Unit at DAS currently includes architects, engineers, experts in building safety and environmental standards, professionals in security systems and requirements, and other building-related trades professionals.

DCS provides capital project planning, design management and construction oversight for most large Executive Branch agencies and constituent units of Higher Education (except UCONN). Among other things, the agency also has authority over fire and building code development and enforcement, and other standards and regulations relating to buildings.

The Facilities and Security Units at DAS currently work closely with the Code and Design & Construction Units within DCS. The personnel in these units rely on one another for expertise in a broad range of subjects related to building design, energy and environmental standards, building and fire code issues, and other facilities-related matters. Merging the two agencies would remove the artificial barriers that now exist between these units and this work, and would enable better cooperation and more seamless interactions.

Additionally, consolidating the two agencies will enable us to continue the good work that we have done in the past year to centralize administrative support services, achieving efficiencies and more uniform policies and procedures. In the past year, DAS has integrated virtually all support services of DAS, the former Department of Information Technology (DOIT) and part of the former Department of Public Works (DPW). Specifically:

- The former DOIT Fiscal Management Office, DPW Project Accounting Office and DOIT Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable Units were consolidated into the DAS Business Office.
- The Legal and Legislative activities of the three departments were consolidated into one office operating at the direction of the Commissioner.
- Former DAS and DOIT procurement services and staff, along with procurement-related activities of the DPW Property Management Unit are now consolidated in the new Office of Strategic Procurement.
- Public Information and Communication services provided by all three agencies have been folded into one Communications Office operating at the direction of the Commissioner.
- Similarly, Human Resource Management Services, affirmative action planning and workplace diversity programs have been consolidated into a single office.
- The DPW and DAS IT units have been consolidated and aligned in the new Bureau of Enterprise Systems and Technology to better utilize that staff and provide greater service to small state agencies.
- Facility Management and Security Services at all three agencies are being integrated.
- The separate Internet websites for the three departments have been merged and harmonized.

DAS anticipates that we will be able to similarly integrate DCS support services in a manner that will achieve greater efficiencies and coordination.

In sum, we anticipate that the Governor's proposal to merge DCS and DAS will provide additional opportunities for achieving greater efficiencies in the provision of central administrative services, and will improve coordination in the closely related areas of construction and property management. Bringing the two agencies together will eliminate artificial administrative barriers and optimize the use of staff resources. DAS and DCS are working with the Governor's Office and OPM to determine how best to structure and staff the new merged agency.